

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 DHA-02 L-03
H-01 SCS-03 SS-15 /064 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:RGRIBBIN:LAR
APPROVED BY AF/C:EMARKS
AF/S:CTAYLOR

-----104578 280045Z /62

P R 272308Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176381

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, CASC, CT, US

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALIST

REF: BANGUI 1567

1. REFTEL HAS BEEN REPEATED TO PRETORIA WHICH SHOULD
BE INFO ADDRESSEE ON FUTURE TRAFFIC CONCERNING GOLDSMITH.

2. FOR PRETORIA: ON JULY 14 TWO JOURNALISTS JONATHAN
RANDAL OF WASHINGTON POST AND MICHAEL GOLDSMITH, AP COR-
RESPONDENT, VISITING BANGUI WERE DETAINED BY LOCAL POLICE,
AND LATER ACCUSED OF SPYING AND NON-COMPLIANCE WITH LAW
REQUIRING REGISTRATION OF JOURNALISTS AND CENSORSHIP.
ON JULY 21 IN PRESENCE OF GOVERNMENT AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS
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EMPEROR BOKASSA RELEASED RANDAL INTO CUSTODY OF AMERICAN
CHARGE AND ORDERED HIM OUT OF COUNTRY. GOLDSMITH'S DE-
TENTION WAS CONTINUED WITH ACCUSATION THAT HE WAS MISRE-
PRESENTING HIMSELF AS BRITISH WHEN HE IN FACT WAS SOUTH
AFRICAN. BASIS FOR THIS BELIEF MIGHT LIE IN FACT THAT
GOLDSMITH FILED STORY FROM BANGUI TO AP OFFICE IN
JOHANNESBURG.

3. BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE STATES GOLDSMITH BRITISH SUBJECT
BORN 10/28/21 VIENNA, AUSTRIA AND BEARER OF UK PASSPORT

C689664 ISSUED ALGIERS FEB. 2, 1976.

4. AS SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS ECONOMIC RELATIONS
WITH CAE, RUMOR IN BANGUI IS THAT GOLDSMITH BEING USED
TO PRY MORE MONEY OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA.

5. IF GOCAE PERSISTS IN TAKING LINE THAT GOLDSMITH SOUTH
AFRICAN OR IF HE ACTUALLY IS DUAL CITIZEN, WE PRESUME
THAT HMG WILL SOLICIT SAG ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING HIS
RELEASE.

6. SINCE GOLDSMITH NOT AMERICAN, USG HAS NO GROUNDS TO
CONTINUE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT WITH GOCAE IN ATTEMPT TO GAIN
HIS RELEASE. NONETHELESS, GOLDSMITH WORKS FOR AP AND
DEPARTMENT INTERESTED IN CASE.

7. ABOVE FYI ONLY. WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT OF ANY
APPROACH MADE TO YOU ON THIS SUBJECT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, JOURNALISTS, CITIZENSHIP AUTHENTICATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE176381
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RGRIBBIN:LAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770269-0811
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770712/aaaaakdb.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5ffef662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BANGUI 1567
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1730021
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALIST
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, SOPN, CT, US, (GOLDSMITH, MICHAEL)
To: PRETORIA BANGUI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5ffef662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009